(b) The State Government has informed that there are already three dairy plants in the cooperative sector and two in private sector functioning in the State. No proposal of Government of Himachal Pradesh for opening of a new dairy under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme is pending with Government of India.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Question does not arise.

Assistance to Maharashtra for development and promotion of agriculture projects

3718. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial assistance given by the Union Government to the Maharashtra Government for the development and promotion of agricultural projects during the last two years;

(b) whether the fund granted by the Union Government for the purpose has been fully utilized by the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUM DEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) to (c) The details of funds released and utilized by the Maharashtra Government for the development of agriculture under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented by Department of Agriculture and Cooperation during the last two years are as follows :—

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	2001-02		2002-03	
		Funds released	Expenditure	Funds released	Expenditure (Provisional)*
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Macro Management Scheme	9000.00	9443.78	6560.00	3941.70

1	2	3	4	5	6
2.	Technology Mission on Cotton	410.00	322.00	235.89	0.00
3.	Oilseed Production Programme (OPP)	825.00	784.25	675.00	0.00
4.	National Pulses Development Project (NPDP)	262.00	184.85	147.00	0.00
5.	Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)	41.44	31.63	80.77	0.00
	TOTAL :	10538.44	10766.51	7698.66	3941.70

*Utilization report for the full year 2002-03 is awaited from the State.

Premium of agricultural insurance

†3719. SHRI DATTA MEGHE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any measures have been suggested to make the premium rates of agricultural insurance reasonable and whether the farmers are aware of the agricultural insurance premium;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government on these suggestions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUM DEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) and (b) As per the provision in the existing scheme for food and oilseeds crops, flat premium rates ranging between 1.5% to 3.5% and for annual commercial/horticultural crops actuarial rates are levied. These rates are considered reasonable.

At the start of each crop season details regarding premium rates, crops covered etc. are notified by the implementing States to make aware all concerned including farmers.

(c) Keeping in view the suggestions from different quarters process for further rationalization of the premium rates has been initiated by the implementing agency *viz.*, General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC).

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.